

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **TINCHER BILL REQUIRING CERTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS PASSED OUT OF HOUSE**

INDIANAPOLIS -- Senate Bill 201, legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Vern Tinchler (D-Terre Haute) requiring the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to certify all emergency management organizations and emergency managers, passed out of the House today.

SEMA will be responsible for designing a certification program, competency examinations and creating the standards an emergency management organization must meet in order to be deemed certified.

Senate Bill 201 will require that all county emergency management organizations, interjurisdictional emergency management organizations and county emergency managers in Indiana are certified by SEMA.

The bill also establishes an interim committee to study certain public and homeland security issues.

"After 9/11, when we saw how easy it was for terrorists to attack us on American soil, it became imperative that every state really look to its own security," said Tinchler. "By making sure that all of our emergency management organizations are certified, we are making sure that those responsible for responding to a serious crisis in Indiana know how to handle the situation."

Tinchler points out that emergency management organizations are not only responsible for responding to terrorist attacks. They provide assistance for any disaster, from severe flooding to chemical spills. If local emergency management organizations are unable to handle the magnitude of the disaster, they can declare a local state of emergency, which allows SEMA to step in and offer assistance and funds.

Senate Bill 201 is a continuation of Tinchler's demonstrated concern for the safety of all Hoosiers. He co-sponsored the recently passed bill creating the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Tinchler has also authored or sponsored bills that address benefits for police officers, fire marshals and the addition of courts to counties in his district.

Senate Bill 201 will now go to the governor for final approval.